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News Release

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Governor Gives Safety Award to Indianapolis Zoo

West Lafayette, IN – The Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc., was presented with the Governor's Workplace Safety Award today at the Hoosier Safety Council's 17th Annual State Safety and Health Conference in West Lafayette. The Governor's Workplace Safety Awards recognize the most innovative safety and health initiatives among Indiana's workplaces. The selection process for the awards is very competitive and only three awards were given this year.

The Zoological Society was given the award for education and outreach related to their innovative approach to employee education and training. Most impressive about the Zoo's commitment to safety was its efforts to educate not only its employees but also the general public, visitors and Zoo volunteers. The Zoo's approach to safety and education was refreshing in that it extended its concern for employees to health issues beyond the workplace by offering services such as mammography and blood pressure screening and by utilizing education techniques that focused on infusing fun into learning.

Commissioner of Labor Nancy J. Guyott, who presented the awards on behalf of the governor, noted, "The positive work culture of a zoo combined with its unique dangers have enabled the Indianapolis Zoological Society to take a proactive and visionary approach to

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safety education, outreach, and prevention. I applaud them for their commitment to workplace safety.”

“The Indianapolis Zoological Society is extremely pleased to be honored for its safety education and outreach efforts,” said Cindy Kaufman, Safety Manager Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc. “We have made an extensive and concerted effort over the last several years to expand the safety work we do with not only employees, but also with volunteers and visitors. And it has made a real difference in decreasing accidents and injuries, which is our highest priority, and that in turn translates into real savings in terms of health care and insurance costs. Safety education is a ‘win-win’ situation for everyone, and we thank you very much for this recognition.”

In addition to the award presented the Indianapolis Zoological Society, the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce and the Safety Chairperson, Mr. Ron Cook, also each won an award for the efforts related to three decades of leadership in the area of education and outreach.